



International Union of Operating Engineers

AFFILIATED WITH THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

TIM CREMINS

REGIONAL POLITICAL DIRECTOR
1121 L Street, Suite 401
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-440-8710

June 15, 2020

Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA, 95814

Re: State Bargaining Unit 12 - Craft and Maintenance

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the International Union of Operating Engineers, representing the 11,863 members of State Bargaining Unit 12, we write to urge your reconsideration of the currently proposed 10% pay cut for state employees, including **cutting the pay of our essential members** in State Bargaining Unit 12.

When Covid-19 recently reached our State, your administration and health officials nationwide urged the general public to stay home in effort to slow the spread of the disease, and in hopes that we could one day return to a normal way of living. Millions upon millions of California residents stayed home in a righteous effort to stop the disease. With this occurring, our members in Bargaining Unit 12, who were deemed essential, continued to show up to work and risk their health and the health and safety of their families in order to meet the moment and support their State. Now is not the time to turn our backs on these workers.

Unit 12 is comprised of craft and maintenance workers who build and maintain our roads and bridges, operate local water, sanitation, and air quality systems, and ensure the functionality of a variety of critical State facilities, including your office, the State Capitol. Our members in Bargaining Unit 12 are essential in ensuring that the State's transportation system flows freely, and our buildings that service state residents are accessible. Our members showed up amid a crisis when they were called upon and are now desperately urging your consideration in finding a way to not cut their pay.

Prior to the workplace risks presented by Covid-19, many of our members still faced dangerous and life-threatening on-job situations daily. This includes our 5,237 Caltrans employees, many of whom perform work on the shoulders of our State Highways. As, I'm sure you are aware, 189 Caltrans members have been killed on the job over the years, with most deaths occurring due to distracted driving. Considering that these individuals have long supported the states crucial highway system in the face of danger and have continued to show up during these uncertain times, we should be building these individuals up for their heroism, not bringing them down.

**WESTERN
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Carl Goff • Western Region Director

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Of the State facilities that our Unit 12 members work in, our members in State Prison facilities have faced particularly tough working conditions. The State prison system has seen over 2,500 Covid-19 cases, with over 250 staff being infected and several deaths. This includes our members working in the Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, a facility that houses 2,256 incarcerated individuals. Of those 2,256 inmates, nearly 1000 have tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 3 weeks, a horrifying number if you consider the risks it puts other inmates, facility staff, and the families of staff in. At a time when most of us have been living in fear, these brave men and women have faced this disease head on and continued to perform essential tasks despite severe risks. Now is not the time to reconsider their worth to the State.

While we understand that the unique nature of this current crisis creates a very difficult situation for the state budget, balancing the budget on the backs of essential workers is not something that we can accept for our members. They've risked too much. Now is the time we should be expressing our gratitude to these individuals, not hampering their ability to pay their bills, or feed their families.

For these reasons we must respectfully **urge your reconsideration of cutting essential employee pay**, including our essential members in State Bargaining Unit 12. If we can be of any assistance at all, please don't hesitate to reach out to our legislative staff at (916)-440-8710.


Sincerely,



Dan Reding
Business Manager, Local 3



Bart Florence,
Business Manager, Local 39

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Ed Curly
Business Manager, Local 501

cc: The Honorable Toni Atkins, President Pro Tempore, California State Senate
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speaker, California State Assembly
The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair- Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Phil Ting, Chair- Assembly Committee on Budget